

POL

The wisdom of this world is sometimes taken in scripture for policy, and consists in a certain dexterity of managing business for a man's secular advantage.

3. [Polisa, Spanish.] A warrant for money in the public funds.

To POLISH. *v. a.* [polir, Lat. *polir*, Fr.]

1. To smooth; to brighten by attrition; to gloss.

He fetched to finish his work, and polished it perfectly. *Ecc.*

Pygmalion, with fatal art,

Polished the form that flung his heart. *Gravill.*

2. To make elegant of manners.

Studious they appear

Of arts that polish life, inventors rare. *Milton.*

But soft science polish Britain's heroes. *Irene.*

To POLISH. *v. u.* To answer to the act of polishing; to receive a gloss.

It is reported by the ancients, that there was a kind of steel, which would polish almost as white and bright as silver. *Bacon.*

POLISH. *n. f.* [poli, *politure*, Fr. from the verb.]

1. Artificial gloss; brightness given by attrition.

Not to mention what a huge column of granite cost in the quarry, only consider the great difficulty of heaving it into any form, and of giving it the due turn, proportion and polish.

Another prism of clearer glass and better polish seemed free from veins. *Newton's Opticks.*

2. Elegance of manners.

What are these wondrous civilizing arts,

This Roman polish, and this smooth behaviour,

That render man thus tractable and tame? *Addison's Cat.*

POLISHABLE. *adj.* [from *polish*.] Capable of being polished.

POLISHER. *n. f.* [from *polish*.] The person or instrument that gives a gloss.

I consider an human soul without education, like marble in the quarry, which shews none of its inherent beauties, till the skill of the polisher fetches out the colours. *Addison.*

POLITE. *adj.* [politus, Latin.]

1. Glossy; smooth.

Some of them are diaphanous, shining and polite; others not polite, but as if powder'd over with fine iron dust. *Woodw.*

If any sort of rays, falling on the polite surface of any pellucid medium, be reflected back, the fits of easy reflexion, which they have at the point of reflexion, shall still continue to return. *Newton's Opticks.*

The edges of the sand holes, being worn away, there are left all over the glass a numberless company of very little convex polite things like waves. *Newton's Opticks.*

2. Elegant of manners.

A nymph of quality admires our knight,

He marries, bows at court, and grows polite. *Pope.*

POLITELY. *adv.* [from *polite*.] With elegance of manners; genteely.

POLITENESS. *n. f.* [politesse, Fr. from *polite*.] Elegance of manners; gentility; good breeding.

I have seen the dullest men aiming at wit, and others, with as little pretensions, affecting politeness in manners and discourse. *Swift.*

POLITICAL. *adj.* [πολιτικός.]

1. Relating to politics; relating to the administration of public affairs.

More true political wisdom may be learned from this single book of proverbs, than from a thousand Machiavel. *Rogers.*

2. Cunning; skilful.

POLITICALLY. *adv.* [from *political*.]

1. With relation to public administration.

The Turks politically mingled certain Janizaries, harquebusiers with their horsemen. *Kneller's History of the Turks.*

POLITICASTER. *n. f.* A petty ignorant pretender to politics.

There are quacks of all sorts; as bullies, pedants, hypocrites, empiricks, law jobbers and politicasters. *L'Estrange.*

POLITICIAN. *n. f.* [politicien, Fr.]

1. One versed in the arts of government; one skilled in politics.

Get thee glass eyes,

And, like a scurvy politician, seem

To see things thou dost not. *Shaksp. King Lear.*

And 't be any way, it must be with valour; for policy I hate: I had as lief be a Brownist as a politician. *Shaksp. Henry IV. p. ii.*

Although I may seem less a politician to men, yet I need no secret distinctions nor evasions before God. *King Charles.*

While empirick politicians use deceit,

Hide what they give, and cure but by a cheat,

You boldly show that skill, which they pretend,

And work by means as noble as your end. *Dryden.*

Coffee, which makes the politician wife,

And see through all things with his half-shut eyes,

Sent up in vapours to the baron's brain

New stratagems, the radiant lock to gain. *Pope.*

2. A man of artifice; one of deep contrivance.

Your ill-meaning politician lords,

Under pretence of bridal friends and guests,

Appointed to await me thirty spies. *Milton.*

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If a man succeeds in any attempt, though undertook with never so much rashness, his success shall vouch him a politician, and good luck shall pass for deep contrivance; for give any one fortune, and he shall be thought a wife man. *South.*

POLITICK. *adj.* [πολιτικός.]

1. Political; civil. In this sense political is almost always used, except in the phrase body politick.

Virtuously and wisely acknowledging, that he with his people made all but one politick body, whereof himself was the head; even so cared for them as he would for his own limbs. *Sidney, l. ii.*

No civil or politick constitutions have been more celebrated than his by the best authors. *Templ.*

2. Prudent; versed in affairs.

This land was famously enrich'd

With politick grave council; then the king

Had virtuous uncles. *Shaksp. Richard III.*

3. Artful; cunning. In this sense political is not used.

I have trod a measure; I have flatter'd a lady; I have been

politick with my friend, smooth with mine enemy. *Shaksp.*

Authority followeth old men, and favour youth; but for the moral part, perhaps youth will have the preeminence, as age hath for the politick. *Bacon.*

No less alike the politick and wife,

All fly slow things, with circumspect eyes;

Men in their loose unguarded hours they take. *Pope.*

POLITICKLY. *adv.* [from *politick*.] Artfully; cunningly.

Thus have I politickly begun my reign,

And 'tis my hope to end successfully. *Shaksp.*

'Tis politickly done,

To send me packing with an host of men. *Shaksp.*

The dutchess hath been most politickly employed in sharpening those arms with which she tubdued you. *Pope.*

POLITICKS. *n. f.* [politiques, Fr. *politiques*.] The science of government; the art or practice of administering public affairs.

Be pleas'd your politicks to spare,

I'm old enough, and can myself take care. *Dryden.*

It would be an everlasting reproach to politicks, should such men overturn an establishment formed by the wisest laws, and supported by the ablest heads. *Addison.*

Of crooked counsels and dark politicks.

POLITURE. *n. f.* [politura, Fr.] The gloss given by the act of polishing.

POLITY. *n. f.* [πολιτεία.] A form of government; civil constitution.

Because the subject, which this position concerneth, is a form of church government or church polity, it behooveth us to consider the nature of the church, as is requisite for men's more clear and plain understanding, in what respect laws of polity or government are necessary thereunto. *Hesler.*

The polity of some of our neighbours hath not thought it beneath the public care, to promote and reward the improvement of their own language. *Lake on Education.*

POLL. *n. f.* [poll, pol, Dutch, the top.]

1. The head.

Look if the withered elder hath not his poll claw'd like a parrot. *Shaksp. Henry IV. p. ii.*

2. A catalogue or list of persons; a register of heads.

Have you a catalogue

Of all the voices that we have procur'd,

Set down by th' poll. *Shaksp. Coriolanus.*

The miter file, rotten and sound, amounts not to fifteen thousand poll. *Shaksp. Henry IV. p. ii.*

3. A fish called generally a chub. A chevin.

To POLL. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To lop the top of trees.

The oft cutting and polling of hedges conduces much to their lasting. *Bacon's Natural History.*

May thy woods oft poll'd yet ever wear

A green, and, when the list, a golden hair. *Dante.*

2. In this sense is used polled sheep.

Polled sheep, that is sheep without horns, are reckoned the best breeders, because the ewes year the polled lamb with the least danger. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

3. To pull off hair from the head; to clip short; to shear.

Neither shall they shave, only poll their heads. *Exekiel.*

4. To mow; to crop.

He'll go and fowle the porter of Rome gates by th' ears: he will mow down all before him, and leave his passage poll'd. *Shaksp. Coriolanus.*

5. To plunder; to strip; to pill.

They will poll and spoil so outrageously, as the very enemy cannot do much worse. *Spenser on Ireland.*

Take and exact upon them the wild exactions, coime, livery and foreloun, by which they poll and utterly undo the poor tenants. *Spenser on Ireland.*

He told the people, that subsidies were not to be granted nor levied for wars in Scotland; for that the law had provided another course by service of escheage, much less when war was made but a pretence to poll and pill the people. *Bacon.*

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Neither can justice yield her fruit with sweetness, amongst the briars and brambles of catching and polling clerks and ministers. *Bacon.*

4. To take a list or register of persons.

5. To enter one's name in a list or register.

Who ever brought to his rich daughter's bed,

The man that polled but twelve pence for his head? *Dryd.*

6. To insert into a number as a voter.

In solemn conclave sit, devoid of thought,

And poll for points of faith his trusty vote. *Tickell.*

POLLARD. *n. f.* [from *poll*.]

1. A tree lopped.

Nothing procureth the lasting of trees so much as often cutting; and we see all overgrown trees are pollards or dotards, and not trees at their full height. *Bacon.*

2. A clipped coin.

The same king called in certain counterfeit pieces coined by the French, called pollards, crocans and rosaries. *Camden.*

3. The chub fish.

POLLER. *n. f.* A fine powder, commonly understood by the word farina; as also a sort of fine bran. *Railly.*

POLLINGER. *n. f.* Brushwood. This seems to be the meaning of this obsolete word.

Lop for thy fewel old pollenger grown,

That hinder the corn or the grail to be mown. *Tusser.*

POLLER. *n. f.* [from *poll*.]

1. Robber; pillager; plunderer.

The poller and exacter of fees justifies the resemblance of the courts of justice to the bush, whereunto while the sheep flies for defence, he loses part of the fleece. *Bacon's Essays.*

2. He who votes or polls.

POLLIVIL. *n. f.* [poll and evil.]

Pollivil is a large swelling, inflammation or imposthume in the horse's poll or nape of the neck, just between the ears towards the mane. *Farrier's Dict.*

POLLOCK. *n. f.* A kind of fish.

The coast is plentifully stored with shellfish, sea-hedgehogs, scallops; and flat, as round, pilcherd, herring and pollock. *Carver's Survey of Cornwall.*

To POLLUTE. *v. a.* [polluere, Lat. *polluer*, Fr.]

1. To make unclean, in a religious sense; to defile.

Hot and peevish vows

Are polluted offerings, more abhor'd

Than spotted livers in the sacrifice. *Shaksp.*

2. To taint with guilt.

She woos the gentle air,

To hide her guilty front with innocent snow,

And on her naked shame,

Pollute with sinful blame. *Milton.*

3. To corrupt by mixtures of ill.

Envy my praise, and would destroy

With grief my pleasures, and pollute my joy? *Dryden.*

4. Milton uses this word in an uncommon construction.

Polluted from the end of his creation. *Milton.*

POLLUTEDNESS. *n. f.* [from *pollute*.] Defilement; the state of being polluted.

POLLUTER. *n. f.* [from *pollute*.] Defiler; corrupter.

Ev'n he, the king of men,

Fell at his threshold, and the spoil of Troy

The foul polluters of his bed enjoy. *Dryden's Aeneis.*

POLLUTION. *n. f.* [pollution, Fr. *pollutio*, Latin.]

1. The act of defiling.

The contrary to consecration is pollution, which happens in churches by homicide, and burying an excommunicated person in the church. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*

2. The state of being defiled; defilement.

Their strife pollution brings

Upon the temple. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xii.*

POLTRON. *n. f.* [poltron, Lat. *poltron*, Fr.]

1. Being once a practice of cowards to cut off their thumbs, that they might not be compelled to serve in war. *Saunders.*

Menage derives it from the Italian poltro, a bed; as cowards feign themselves sick a bed: others derive it from poltro or poltra, a young unbroken horse. A coward; a nidget; a scoundrel.

Patience is for poltrons.

They that are bruised with wood or fists,

And think one beating may for once

Suffice, are cowards and poltrons. *Hudibras, p. ii.*

For who but a poltron poll'd with fear,

Such haughty insolence can tamely bear. *Dryden.*

POLY. *n. f.* [polium, Lat.] An herb.

POLY. [poly.] A prefix often found in the composition of words derived from the Greek, and intimating multitude: as, polygon, a figure of many angles; polyus, an animal with many feet.

POLY-COMPTICK. *adj.* [πολύ and ἀκκω.] Any thing that multiplies or magnifies sounds. *Diect.*

POLYANTHOS. *n. f.* [πολύ and ἄνθος.] A plant.

Great varieties of polyanthos are annually produced, and its flowers are so numerous on one stalk, and so beautifully striped, that they are not inferior to auriculas in beauty. *Miller.*

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The daisy, primrose, violet darkly blue,
And polyanthos of unnumber'd dyes. *Shaksp.*

POLYEDRICAL. *adj.* [from πολυεδρικός; polyedre, Fr.] Having many sides.

The protuberant particles may be spherical, elliptical, cylindrical, polyedrical, and some very irregular; and according to the nature of these, and the situation of the lucid body, the light must be variously effected. *Boyle.*

A tubercle of a pale brown spar, had the exterior surface covered with small polyedrous crystals, pellucid, with a cast of yellow. *Woodward.*

POLYGAMIST. *n. f.* [from *polygamy*.] One that holds the lawfulness of more wives than one at a time.

POLYGAMY. *n. f.* [polygamie, Fr. *polygamie*.] Plurality of wives.

Polygamy is the having more wives than one at once. *Locke.*

They allow no polygamy: they have ordained, that none do intermarry or contract, until a month be past from their first interview. *Bacon.*

Christian religion, prohibiting polygamy, is more agreeable to the law of nature, that is, the law of God, than mahometism that allows it; for one man, his having many wives by law, signifies nothing, unless there were many women to one man in nature also. *Graunt.*

POLYGLOT. *adj.* [πολύγλωττος; polyglotte, Fr.] Having many languages.

The polyglot or linguist is a learned man. *Howel.*

POLYGON. *n. f.* [polygone, Fr. *polygone* and *γωνία*.] A figure of many angles.

He began with a single line; he joined two lines in an angle, and he advanced to triangles and squares, polygons and circles. *Watson's Improvement of the Mind.*

POLYGONAL. *adj.* [from *polygon*.] Having many angles.

POLYGRAM. *n. f.* [πολύ and γραμμα.] A figure consisting of a great number of lines. *Diect.*

POLYGRAPHY. *n. f.* [πολύ and γραφή; polygraphie, Fr.] The art of writing in several unusual manners or cyphers; as also decyphering the same. *Diect.*

POLYLOGY. *n. f.* [πολύ and λογος.] Talkativeness. *Diect.*

POLYMATHY. *n. f.* [πολύ and μάθημα.] The knowledge of many arts and sciences; also an acquaintance with many different subjects. *Diect.*

POLYPHONISM. *n. f.* [πολύ and φωνή.] Multiplicity of sound.

The passages relate to the diminishing the sound of his pistol, by the rarity of the air at that great ascent into the atmosphere, and the magnifying the sound by the polyphonisms or repercussions of the rocks and caverns. *Derham.*

POLYPETALOUS. *adj.* [πολύ and πέταλον.] Having many petals.

POLYPODY. *n. f.* [polypodium, Latin.] A plant.

Polybody is a capillary plant with oblong jagged leaves, having a middle rib, which joins them to the stalks running through each division. *Miller.*

Polybody is common on the banks of ditches where there are stumps of old trees, on walls, and by the sides of woods: polybody is attenuant and dissolvent. *Hill's Materia Medica.*</